

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A coin separator and rejector apparatus, comprising:
 - (a) a coin separator and rejector body having two or more segments hinged together in pivotal connection, said pivotally connected segments adapted to pivot around said hinge from a closed position to an open position, said hinged segments defining one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed between said hinged segments, said rejector body having an upstream portion and a downstream portion, and said coin races further comprising a first wall and a second wall, at least a portion of one of said walls in pivotal connection with a least one of said hinged segments of said coin separator and rejector body;
 - (b) one or more sensors located in said upstream portion of said rejector body;
 - (c) an actuator in mechanical connection said pivotal portion of said race wall; and
 - (d) a programmed processor in electrical communication with said one or more sensors and with said actuator whereby, in accordance with the programming of said processor, said actuator will pivot said pivotal portion of said race wall from said closed position to said open position upon detection of a coin by said one or more sensors.
2. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a second sensor located in said downstream portion of said rejector body.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said actuator is an electric motor.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said actuator is a solenoid.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said solenoid is a latching solenoid.
6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4 wherein said solenoid is a wound cap solenoid.
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said sensors is an induction coil.
8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said sensors is a Hall effect sensor.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein at least one of said sensors is a photoelectric sensor.

10. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein at least one of said sensors is an LED sensor.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein at least one of said sensors is an IR sensor.
12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising a light coin spring detector positioned in the downstream portion of said rejector body.
13. (Currently Amended) A coin separator and rejector apparatus, comprising:
 - (a) a coin separator and rejector body having two or more segments hinged together in pivotal connection, said hinged segments adapted to pivot around said hinge from a closed position to an open position, said hinged segments defining one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed between said hinged segments, said rejector body having an upstream portion and a downstream portion, said coin races further comprising a first wall and a second wall, at least a portion of one of said walls in pivotal connection with at least one of said hinged segments of said coin separator and rejector body;
 - (b) one or more sensors located in said upstream portion of said rejector body;
 - (c) one or more sensors located in said downstream portion of said rejector body.
 - (d) an actuator in mechanical connection with said pivotal portion of said race wall; and
 - (e) a programmed processor in electrical communication with said sensors and with said actuator whereby, in accordance with the programming of said processor, said actuator will pivot said pivotal portion of said race wall from said closed position to said open position upon detection of a coin by said sensors.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said actuator is an electric motor.
15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein said actuator is a solenoid.
16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said solenoid is a latching solenoid.
17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 15 wherein said solenoid is a wound cap solenoid.
18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein at least one of said sensors is an induction coil.
19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein at least one of said sensors is a Hall effect sensor.

20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein at least one of said sensors is a photoelectric sensor.
21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein at least one of said sensors is an LED sensor.
22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 20 wherein at least one of said sensors is an IR sensor.
23. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 13 further comprising a light coin spring detector positioned between said one or more sensors located in said upstream portion of said rejector body and said one or more sensors located in said downstream portion of said rejector body.
24. (Withdrawn) A method of rejecting jammed coins from a coin separator and rejector, comprising
 - (a) programming a processor with a pre-selected minimum transit time and a pre-selected maximum transit time for a coin to transit a coin sensor located in a coin path in a coin separator and rejector;
 - (b) sensing the transit time of a coin transiting a coin sensor located in a coin path of a coin separator and rejector;
 - (c) sending a signal from said sensor to said processor;
 - (d) calculating the transit time of said coin transiting said coin sensor;
 - (e) comparing the transit time to said pre-selected minimum and maximum transit times; and
 - (f) sending a signal from said processor to a coin rejection actuator if said coin transit time fails to fall within said pre-selected transit times.
25. (Withdrawn) A method of rejecting jammed coins from a coin separator and rejector, comprising
 - (a) establishing an electronic signature for a coin with a sensor;
 - (b) storing said electronic signature in a processor;
 - (c) sensing a coin with a sensor located in a coin path in a coin separator and rejector;
 - (d) sending a signal from said sensor to said processor;
 - (e) comparing said signal from said sensor with said electronic signature stored in said processor; and

- (f) sending a signal from said processor to a coin rejection actuator if said signal fails to match said electronic signature.
26. (Withdrawn) A method of rejecting jammed coins from a coin separator and rejector, comprising:
- (a) detecting a coin in an upstream portion of a coin separator and rejector with a first sensor and sending a signal to a processor;
 - (b) waiting a predetermined time period for the detection of a signal by said processor from a second sensor positioned in a downstream portion of said coin separator and rejector; and
 - (c) sending a signal from said processor to a coin rejection actuator in the absence of a signal from said second sensor after said predetermined time period.
27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accepting and rejecting coins, comprising:
- (a) a coin separator and rejector body having an upstream portion and a downstream portion, said coin separator and rejector body formed from two or more segments hinged together, said hinged together segments adapted to pivot around said hinge from a closed position to an open positions, said hinged together segments forming one or more downwardly inclined coin races between said hinged segments, said coin races further comprising a first wall and a second wall, at least a portion of one of said walls in pivotal connection with said hinged segment of said coin acceptor and rejector body;
 - (b) means for sensing located in said upstream portion of said coin separator and rejector body;
 - (c) means for pivoting from a closed position to an open position at least one of said hinged segments in pivotal connection with at least a portion of one of said walls; and
 - (d) a processor in electrical communication with said sensing means and said pivoting means whereby, in accordance with the programming of said processor, said pivoting means will pivot said pivotal portion of said race wall from said closed position to said open position upon detection of a coin by said sensing means.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 further comprising means for sensing located in said downstream portion of said coin separator and rejector body.
29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 further comprising means for stopping a coin of insufficient weight in said coin race, said means located downstream of said sensing means.
30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 further comprising means for stopping a coin of less than a predetermined weight, said means located between said sensing means located in said upstream portion of said coin separator and rejector body and said downstream portion of said coin separator and rejector body.
31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 27 further comprising a magnet mounted adjacent said coin race in the upstream portion of said coin separator and rejector body.
32. (Previously Presented) A coin acceptor and rejector apparatus, comprising:
- (a) A coin acceptor and rejector body comprising two or more segments hinged together, said hinged together segments adapted to pivot around said hinge from a closed position to an open position, said hinged together segments further comprising one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed therein, said downwardly inclined coin races further comprising a first wall and a second wall wherein at least a portion of one of said race walls is in pivotal connection with said acceptor and rejector body, said pivotal connection having an open position and a closed position wherein in said open position an object contained in said coin race will be released from said acceptor and rejector body; said acceptor and rejector body further comprising an upstream portion and a downstream portion;
 - (b) A first sensor located in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body, said first sensor adapted for detecting an object in said coin race in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body;
 - (c) A second sensor located in said downstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body, said second sensor adapted for detecting an object in said coin race in said downstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body;
 - (d) An actuator in mechanical connection with said pivotal portion of said race wall for pivoting said pivotal connection from said closed position to said open position;

- (e) A processor in electrical communication with said first sensor, said second sensor and said actuator, said processor programmed to receive a signal from said second sensor within a predetermined time period upon detection of an object by said first sensor in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body, said processor further programmed to send a signal to said actuator to pivot said pivotal connection from said closed position to said open position if said predetermined time period is exceeded.
33. (Previously Presented) A coin acceptor and rejector apparatus, comprising:
- (a) A coin acceptor and rejector body comprising two or more segments hinged together, said hinged together segments adapted to pivot around said hinge from a closed position to an open position, said hinged together segments further comprising one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed therein, one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed within said acceptor and rejector body, said downwardly inclined coin races further comprising a first wall and a second wall wherein at least a portion of one of said race walls is in pivotal connection with said acceptor and rejector body, said pivotal connection having an open position and a closed position wherein in said open position an object contained in said coin race will be released from said acceptor and rejector body; said acceptor and rejector body further comprising an upstream portion and a downstream portion;
 - (b) A magnet mounted adjacent said coin race located in said upstream portion of the said acceptor and rejector body, said magnet adapted to swing away upon pivoting said pivotal connection from said closed position to said open position;
 - (c) A first sensor located in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body, said first sensor adapted for detecting an object in said coin race in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body;
 - (d) A second sensor located in said downstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body, said second sensor adapted for detecting an object in said coin race in said downstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body;

- (e) An actuator in mechanical connection with said pivotal portion of said race wall for pivoting said pivotal connection from said closed position to said open position;
 - (f) A processor in electrical communication with said first sensor, said second sensor and said actuator, said processor programmed to receive a signal from said second sensor within a predetermined time period upon detection of an object by said first sensor in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body, said processor further programmed to send a signal to said actuator to pivot said pivotal connection from said closed position to said open position if said predetermined time period is exceeded.
34. (Previously Presented) A coin acceptor and rejector apparatus, comprising:
- (a) a coin acceptor and rejector body comprising two or more segments hinged together, said hinged together segments adapted to pivot around said hinge from a closed position to an open position, said hinged together segments further comprising one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed therein, one or more downwardly inclined coin races formed within said acceptor and rejector body, said downwardly inclined coin races further comprising a first wall and a second wall wherein at least a portion of one of said race walls is in pivotal connection with said acceptor and rejector body, said pivotal connection having an open position and a closed position wherein in said open position an object contained in said coin race will be released from said acceptor and rejector body; said acceptor and rejector body further comprising an upstream portion and a downstream portion;
 - (b) Means for detecting an object in said coin race by a first sensor located in said upstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body;
 - (c) Means for detecting an object in said coin race by a second sensor located in said downstream portion of said acceptor and rejector body;
 - (d) Means for pivoting a portion of said race wall from said closed position to said open position;
 - (e) Means for signaling said pivotal portion of said race wall to move from said closed position to said open position if a predetermined time period is exceeded in

detecting an object in said coin race by said first sensor and detecting an object in said coin race by said second sensor.